

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 24, 2001. Claims 1-22 have been canceled. New claims 23-29 have been added for consideration. Reconsideration of the objections and rejections contained in the Office Action is hereby requested.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The application was restricted to three groups. Applicants elected to proceed with the subject matter of Group I, claims 1-20, which were determined to be directed to a system for notifying a user of replicated messages received at a mobile communication device. Claims 21 and 22 have now been canceled.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over EP 772327 to Sharp ("Sharp") in view of US Patent No. 5,973,612 to Deo ("Deo"). The rejection is traversed.

Claims 1-20 have now been canceled, and thus a detailed discussion of these claims is moot. New claims 23-29 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Applicants submit that these claims are clearly distinguishable from the prior art of record, including Sharp and Deo, and therefore are in condition for allowance.

Consider claim 23, for example. This claim recites a method of replicating data

items from a host system to a mobile data communication device. The method includes the following steps: (1) receiving a plurality of data items at the host system, wherein the plurality of data items are transmitted to the host system from a plurality of remote systems; (2) characterizing the plurality of data items at the host system by automatically determining a data item type and a data item priority for each of the received data items; (3) generating an e-mail message for each of the received data items, wherein the e-mail message includes the received data item, the data item type, and the data item priority determined by the host system in the characterizing step; (4) configuring a plurality of notification schemes at the mobile data communication device, wherein each of the plurality of notification schemes includes a plurality of notification fields that determine whether a particular notification scheme should be applied to a particular data item and an alert type, and wherein the plurality of notification fields including a party specific field that identifies a person associated with the data item, a data item type field that identifies a type of the data item, and a data item priority field that identifies a priority ranking of the data item; (5) redirecting the e-mail messages from the host system to the mobile data communication device; (6) recovering the data items, the data item types and the data item priorities from the redirected e-mail messages at the mobile data communication device; and (7) applying the plurality of notification schemes to the redirected data items at the mobile data communication device by determining whether each data item matches the party specific field, the data item type field and the data item priority field of a particular notification scheme, and if so, then enabling the alert type for the particular notification scheme that matches the

data item.

These seven steps are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. In particular, the combination of Sharp and Deo do not disclose the method recited in claim 1, in which data items are received at a host system from a plurality of remote systems, and are then automatically characterized at the host system in terms of a data item type and a data item priority. Deo only teaches that a user inputs data at the host system, not that it is received from a remote system, and only teaches that the user manually characterizes the data at the host system, not that the host system automatically characterizes the data. Neither Sharp or Deo teaches the generation of an e-mail message containing the data item and the automatically characterized data item type and data item priority information. Neither Sharp or Deo teach the plurality of notification schemes recited in claim 1 in which the notification schemes include three fields, one field for a particular person associated with a data item, one field for a particular data type, and one field for a particular priority ranking. At best, Deo teaches a single, separate scheme based on data item type. And neither Sharp or Deo teaches the applying step whereby the mobile device applies the plurality of notification schemes to the redirected data items at the mobile device, using the three notification scheme fields noted above, in order to determine what alert should be enabled. For all of these reasons, claim 23 is distinguishable from Sharp and Deo.

Claims 24-29 are also distinguishable from Sharp and Deo. Claims 24-28 are based on claim 23, and therefore distinguish for at least the same reasons as claim 23. Furthermore, each of claims 24-28 recite specific steps that are simply not disclosed or

suggested by either Sharp or Deo. Similarly, claim 29 recites a method that is not disclosed or suggested by either Sharp or Deo. These claims are thus also in condition for allowance.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Claims

Claims 1-22 have been canceled.

New Claims 23-29 have been added, as follows:

-- 23. (New) A method of replicating data items from a host system to a mobile data communication device, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of data items at the host system, wherein the plurality of data items are transmitted to the host system from a plurality of remote systems; characterizing the plurality of data items at the host system by automatically determining a data item type and a data item priority for each of the received data items;

generating an e-mail message for each of the received data items, wherein the e-mail message includes the received data item, the data item type, and the data item priority determined by the host system in the characterizing step;

configuring a plurality of notification schemes at the mobile data communication device, wherein each of the plurality of notification schemes includes a plurality of

notification fields that determine whether a particular notification scheme should be applied to a particular data item and an alert type, and wherein the plurality of notification fields including a party specific field that identifies a person associated with the data item, a data item type field that identifies a type of the data item, and a data item priority field that identifies a priority ranking of the data item;

redirecting the e-mail messages from the host system to the mobile data communication device;

recovering the data items, the data item types and the data item priorities from the redirected e-mail messages at the mobile data communication device; and

applying the plurality of notification schemes to the redirected data items at the mobile data communication device by determining whether each data item matches the party specific field, the data item type field and the data item priority field of a particular notification scheme, and if so, then enabling the alert type for the particular notification scheme that matches the data item. --

-- 24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

characterizing the plurality of data items at the mobile data communication device by automatically determining a data item type and a data item priority for each of the redirected data items;

providing priority characterization input to the mobile data communication device that indicates whether the characterization step at the mobile data communication device should take priority over the characterization step at the host system; and

if the priority characterization input indicates that the mobile data communication device takes priority over the host system, then using the data item type and data item priority information from the characterization step at the mobile data communication device during the applying step to determine whether a particular notification scheme should be applied to the data item. --

-- 25. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

providing a mobile data communication device having an associated earpiece with a speaker;

providing at least one notification scheme in which the alert type includes the spoken name of a person associated with the data item; and
if the mobile data communication device determines that the at least one notification scheme should be applied to a data item, then outputting the spoken name of the person associated with the data item to the speaker of the earpiece. --

-- 26. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

configuring the mobile data communication device into a low power state in which the mobile data communication device can receive messages, but other functions are substantially disabled;

providing an emergency data item priority characterization;
redirecting a data item to the mobile data communication device in which the data item priority field is set to the emergency data item priority characterization;

receiving the data item at the mobile data communication device; determining that the data item priority field is set to the emergency data item priority characterization, and in response, configuring the mobile data communication device into a normal power state and immediately displaying the data item on the mobile data communication device. --

-- 27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the data item types include e-mail messages received from the remote systems, and further wherein the e-mail messages are characterized as either inbound e-mail data item types or outbound e-mail data item types. --

-- 28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the e-mail messages are further characterized as transmission status data item types. --

-- 29. (New) A method of redirecting e-mail messages and meeting notices from a host system to a mobile data communication device via a wireless network, comprising the steps of:

receiving e-mail messages and meeting notices from a plurality of remote systems at the host system;

generating a plurality of electronic envelopes at the host system, wherein the electronic envelopes include the received e-mail messages or the meeting notices;

generating characterization information regarding the electronic envelopes at the

host system, the characterization information including a data item type that indicates whether the electronic envelope contains an e-mail message or a meeting notice and data item priority ranking that indicates a priority of the e-mail message or meeting notice;

appending the characterization information to the electronic envelopes and redirecting the electronic envelopes from the host system to the mobile data communication device via the wireless network;

receiving the electronic envelopes at the mobile data communication device; extracting the characterization information from the electronic envelopes; comparing the characterization information to a plurality of stored notification schemes at the mobile data communication device to determine whether to enable a particular alert type associated with the notification scheme, wherein the notification scheme includes a user defined field for the data item type and the data item priority. --